



June 2025



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome, warm weather!

I always feel like it's a long time coming. Let's enjoy these few lovely weeks before the big crowds arrive!

In this challenging time, AAUW has outlined its Strategic Priorities. The focus will be on higher education. The three strategic priorities are:

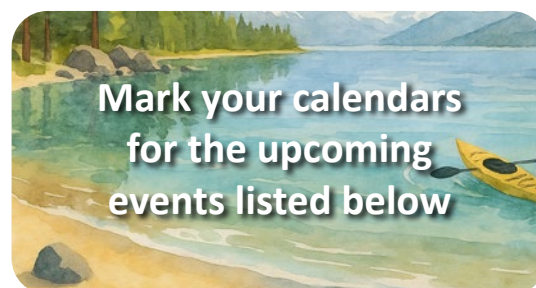
- *Funding Higher Education*
- *Removing Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace*
- *Strengthening AAUW's Reach*

I'm proud that AAUW North Tahoe supports these priorities with our **scholarship, Girls State, and Tech Trek programs!** Our members' generous **donations to the AAUW Fund** also promote these strategic priorities. The AAUW Fund finances grants, fellowships, and research. Let's keep up the great work! One of the most important things that we as individuals can do is to try to bring in new members. This will keep our branch strong and influential!

I'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to Linda Dunne for producing this excellent newsletter for the last two years. The newsletter is so important in keeping our members informed and in supporting our goals. We appreciate you very much, Linda!

Also, I'd like to thank our fabulous 2024-25 Leadership Team and Interest Group Leaders for their outstanding work and for making our branch so vibrant! I'd like to extend a hearty welcome our new team, which will take over on July 1st. I feel that we have very strong leadership, and we sure enjoy our social gatherings! AAUW has become a big part of my life, and I hope it has for you too.

— *Priscilla Mills*



### Summer Planning Meeting

The Leadership Team (and anyone else who'd like to join us) will hold its annual summer planning meeting on Thursday, July 10th at 11:00 a.m. at Priscilla's house. We'll hold our meeting first, then enjoy a potluck lunch. Details will be sent via email. Let's get ready for another great year!

### Summer Party

Our summer party will tentatively be held on Thursday, August 14th at Julie Elmen's home. Stay tuned for more information!



## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you to all of you who have mailed in your AAUW North Tahoe 2025/2026 Renewals. As you may know, the portion of California state dues will increase from \$20 to \$30 effective July 1st. So, not only will it make our Finance Officer's job easier, but it will be less expensive if your renewal is received before July.

And thank you also to those who contributed to our mission-based programs, which mean so much to the young women who benefit.

— Carol Eyre & Johnnie Lee Don

## PROGRAMS

### Visit to the Stewart Indian School in Carson City

Our May 9th program was a visit to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum in Carson City. Most of us had no idea that this fascinating historical site was located so close to us! The cultural center and museum exhibits, contemporary Native American art gallery, and audio guided walking tour of the grounds proved to be very valuable experiences for all of us.

We learned that the Stewart Indian School was a government-run boarding school for Native American children that operated from 1890 to 1980. Originally established to enforce the assimilation of Indigenous students into Western culture, the school enforced strict policies that prohibited students from speaking their native languages or practicing their traditions. Over time, the institution evolved, and after the change in government policies in 1934, the school no longer enforced attendance and allowed students to practice their own traditional cultures. It gradually became a voluntary boarding school focused on Native American students.

Today, the site is preserved as the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, honoring the resilience of its students and providing a space for reflection and learning about the complex legacy of Native American boarding schools. In

addition to the cultural center, the campus is now known for its striking stone masonry, crafted by Native students under the guidance of skilled artisans. If you are interested in learning more about the school and cultural center, they have a very informative web site:

<https://stewartindianschool.com/>



## PROGRAMS (continued)

### Wildflowers of the Tahoe Area and Where to Find them

Please join us! The June Program will be led by the **Tahoe Institute of Natural Sciences on Thursday, June 12 from 12 noon to 2 pm**. The meeting will be held at TINS headquarters in the Trepp Room (first floor) at 948 Incline Way in Incline. Bring a brown bag lunch if you so desire.



It appears to be a banner year for wildflowers as the landscape is all abloom. What perfect timing for TINS to be hosting a **Wildflower Big Year** which means it is using citizen science to record the area's wildflowers and where they are growing. We are all invited to take part. Check out their website [tinsweb.org](https://tinsweb.org) to sign up for wildflower walks.

This is our last program for the year. We would love to hear your ideas for a program in the coming year beginning in September. Please email your thoughts to Cheryl at [cherylkallen@cs.com](mailto:cherylkallen@cs.com) or Barbara at [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com).

— *Barbara Ramsey & Cheryl Allen*



### AAUW FUND

Your generous donations to AAUW Fund have given support to many women continuing their graduate education. Your generosity also affords an opportunity to honor members for outstanding dedication to the mission of AAUW. **Come to the June general meeting on Thursday, June 12 and help celebrate our 2025 Named Gift Honorees and also our North Tahoe Branch Service Award.**

— *Jan Potter*



At the final accounting, **our Branch received a donation of \$1,798.01 from the Snowfest Committee** for Vallerie Laguna's scholarship competition. Wow! Thank you

Vallerie! For her efforts, interview and essay, Vallerie was awarded the \$4,000 Snowfest scholarship. Yay!

Attendees at our second annual **Tech Trek Meet & Greet** gave us a thumbs up! Thanks to everyone who attended, including:

- 10 former and current campers from 12th-7th grades: Vallerie L., Maria E-R, Ava B., Ximena C., Dana V., Dulce G., Kelsey K., Kaylie F., Audrey A., and Zulema B, and many parents and siblings
- 2 nominating teachers from NT School
- 3 women scientist speakers
- 14 AAUW NT members and at least 3 spouses
- Add food and door prizes, voilà success!

Thank you, Johnnie Lee, for everything, and Jenny Moon for photos!



*TT campers, L-R: Ximena C., Dana V., Maria E-R, Kaylie F., Audrey A., Zulema B., Kelsey K., Dulce G., Gaby R., Ava B., and Meri M., creating groups to engage with our invited scientists.*



## TECH TREK MEET & GREET



*L-R: Vallerie L., 2020/2021 TT; Cousin Dylain of Gaby R., and Gaby's mom. Gaby goes to UCD TT this July.*



*CalRecycle Environmental Scientist Kathleen Strickley talks with 2023 UCD campers Ximena and Dana, and 2021 Virtual camper Maria, who is this year's Girls State representative. In May, Maria toured UNR with Pam and Meri.*



*Selected 2025 TT campers Kaylie, Audrey & Zulema, talk with Ev Profita, retired UCD Health Physicist. These girls will attend camp July 13-19, 2025.*



*Kathleen Strickley talks recycling and waste management with campers from 2025, '24, '23, and branch member Shirley Cabo.*



*North Tahoe School 7th grade nominating teachers in blue plaid shirts, foreground, Julia Anderson, background Heidi Bushway-Verkler with 2023 TT dad Serge B. Keeley Martinez, center right, Chemist with Tahoe Environmental Research Center leads Q & A. Our member Carol Eyre joins in.*



*Girls, family and presenters listen to a short Zoom talk by UCD TT co-director Sally Ho introducing the TT Alumnae Group program.*





*AAUW NT members and TT families enjoy time together at the pleasant community grounds of Tahoe Backyard.*



*Many free door prizes, donated and organized by Johnnie Lee, Terry Yagura and Jan Potter. Every girl won a prize!*



*Kelsey and mom at the food table with tacos from La Mexicana and pizza from Whitecaps.*

These girls are the future of AAUW, and our country, may we continue to support and encourage them!

Look at our [AAUW NT website](#) for more photos of the Tech Trek Meet & Greet.

### Visit Day at our UCD TT camp

Meri is helping organize the annual Visit Day at our UCD TT camp. This year Invitations have been sent to more than 30 Branch Coordinators for Visit Day on Thursday, July 17, 9 am-12 noon. North Tahoe members are invited! Please contact me if you are interested in coming to see the TT girls in their Core Classes at camp. Lunch available with the girls afterwards. Join us!

### Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG)

Meri is planning to offer our first North Tahoe Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) meeting after UCD camp and before school starts, to understand the interest of our girls to engage in a local girls-driven empowerment & support group. This first meeting would be an informal local event, about an hour, to explain the TTAG program, brainstorm, plus snacks and perhaps a short video or two on a STEM topic, in person and on Zoom.

– *Meri McEneny*



The Girls State representative, Maria Elias-Ramirez will be going to Sacramento June 14-19 to learn about state and country governmental legislation.

– *Shirley Nelson & Beth Sammis*

## INTEREST GROUPS



### BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, June 24th at the Tahoe Yacht Club in Tahoe City**. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. for in-person attendees, followed by the book discussion from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Remote participants can join via Zoom at 12:00 noon. Note: Lunch now starts at 11:30 – earlier than in our previous meetings!



We will discuss ***Tunnel 29* by Helena Merriman**, a British journalist, author, and broadcaster. Carol Eyre recommended the book and will lead the discussion. This book is a thrilling and deeply human account of one of the most daring escape missions in Cold War history. It follows Joachim Rudolph, a young man who escapes East Germany only to risk everything by tunneling back under the Berlin Wall to help others flee. With the Stasi closing in and betrayal lurking, the book captures the tension, ingenuity, and sheer determination of those fighting for freedom. Originally a BBC podcast, this thrilling account reads like a spy novel, but every word is true! The book is available in audio, hard cover, paperback, and Kindle on Amazon.

As usual, this will be a hybrid meeting. If you can't attend in person, you can join us remotely for the book discussion on Zoom starting at 12:00 noon.

### Calling All Readers

***What are you reading? What would you like to read?***

June is the month the Book Group gathers recommendations for our year of reading from September 2025 to June 2026. It is great if you have read the book, but you can also name those you are really wanting to read. Send your ideas to Cheryl Allen at [cherylkallen@cs.com](mailto:cherylkallen@cs.com) or Barbara Ramsey at [bj3ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bj3ramsey@gmail.com).

We will take time at our June Book Group Meeting on Tuesday, June 24th to discuss the recommendations. Following that, Book Group members will then vote their final selections online.

– **Cheryl Allen & Barbara Ramsey**



### CULINARY CAPERS

Culinary Capers will hold a **2025-2026 planning meeting at Truckee River Winery in August**. We will notify all CC members when the date is finalized and hope that you can attend!

We hope to plan some fun activities for next year and look forward to hearing your ideas. Are there some new or fun restaurants that you would like to explore? A themed activity you would like to recommend? Let us know!

See you in August!

– **Gay Thomas & Johnnie Lee Don**



### CULTURAL GROUP

Cultural Interest Group invites folks from our whole membership to save the date **Wednesday, June 25th, for a day out at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno**. Explore the vibrant artistry of nearly 125 artworks from **Judith Lowry's personal collection of Contemporary Native American Art**. This features her art and that of others by West Coast and Great Basin artists. Lowry is an enrolled member of the Pit River Tribe, with a B.A. in fine arts from Humboldt University and an M.A. in painting and drawing from Chico State University. Join us in exploring the rich history and cultural traditions of the Pit River people and others through this exhibit. Vibrant does not begin to cover the riot of color Lowry uses in exploring her life and that of her parents. It is amazing!

Please email [Johnnieleedon1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnnieleedon1@gmail.com) by June 13 if planning to attend. We will arrive by 11:00 am, leaving Tahoe around 10:00 am. Let Johnnie Lee know if you would like a docent tour. The plan is to have lunch nearby following the tour. The museum restaurant is closed at this time.

**Cost:** Members - Free; Adults - \$15; Seniors - \$13

– **Johnnie Lee Don**



## GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will take a break for the summer and will resume on **Tuesday September 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Plumas Bank in Tahoe City.** A zoom link will be sent out for those who cannot attend in person. We will discuss *Chapter 6 – The Future of NATO and European Security*. Happy summer!

– Ann Lyman and Jo Ann Cobb



## IN STITCHES

The next In Stitches meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 18th, from 2 to 4 pm.** Esther Sonnenberg will host the gathering at her home in Sparks.

Anyone who has knitted squares for our **Project Linus** blanket should bring them to the meeting so we can start designing the blanket.

RSVP to Esther ([Esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com](mailto:Esther.sonnenberg@gmail.com)) if you will attend the meeting. An email with directions will be sent to participants before June 18th.

– Julie Elmen & Esther Sonnenberg



## WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group outing this month will be on **Monday, June 30** along the trail at Sagehen, just north of Truckee along Highway 89.

This is a relatively flat out and back hike along a creek, totaling 5 miles. The turn around point is one of the fingers of Stampede Reservoir just past a pretty meadow. Hopefully, there will still be an assortment of wild flowers in bloom along the creek and in the meadow. Rachael Swift will send out an email to the Walking Group email list a week before with the details. If you are not on this list and would like to be, please email Rachael at [racswift@gmail.com](mailto:racswift@gmail.com). See you then!

– Rachael Swift, Jo Ann Cobb and Priscilla Mills



*Very best wishes to our June, July and August Birthdays!*

June 03	Gay Thomas
June 05	Sue DeVoe
June 12	Sharon Ekin
June 13	Terra Harris
June 18	Diane Buckman
June 19	Christine Madden
July 02	Lesha Roth
July 07	Dana Loury
July 13	Linda Dunne
July 13	Carol Eyre
July 16	Donna Benner
July 21	Pat Castellucci
July 22	Pamela Cosby Brandman
July 23	Cheryl Allen
Aug 01	Carol Cunha
Aug 01	Johnnie Lee Don
Aug 12	Maria Snideman
Aug 14	Elizabeth Sammis
Aug 25	Terry Yagura
Aug 28	Lori Dempsey

## JUNE

12:	General Meeting
18:	In Stitches
24:	Book Group
25:	Cultural Group
30:	Walking Group